

IN THE NIGHT

by JAMES KELMAN

MAN ordinary male in his mid 30's

WOMAN ordinary female in her mid 30's

FIRST INTERROGATOR 26 years old, male; very aware of his inexperience, acts as though under scrutiny by his colleagues; wears a regular suit, shirt and tie, the tie being unloosened. THIRD INTER treats him like a methodical schoolboy but it becomes apparent that 1st Inter has more potential than 2nd ever had

SECOND INTERROGATOR 40 years old, male; speaks like a military man; suit, shirt and tie very aware of his experience. He is very aware also that he does not hold seniority and knows that somehow he does not warrant that. HE has the habit of whistling tunelessly

THIRD INTERROGATOR In her mid 30's, female. Has seniority of rank; dressed smartly, wears a coat. She treats other two as school-pupils on a learning-curve, uses a Socratic method, trying to draw out of her colleagues the correct approach to procedure. But occasionally she gets irritated by them

NB: There must be no class or other hierarchical features of voice that may distinguish the five characters socially.

The same regional accent is crucial. Authoritative upper middle class voices are to be avoided. These are the voices of ordinary citizens.

SCENE

A very sparse enclosed area, like an unused meeting room.

There is a door at the back of this room, used by actors. To the side of the door is a small table.

TIME Around dawn on a summer's morning.

when the FIRST INTERROGATOR enters the room the MAN and WOMAN are sleeping on a mattress on the floor

SCENE 1

LIGHTS dark

MAN and WOMAN asleep side by side on a single mattress, covered by two blankets. MAN is on his back and WOMAN on her side and turned into him. Their breathing may be audible.

To the side and rear is in shadows but by a door stands a figure, FIRST INTERROGATOR.

MAN begins speaking, and with relish, as though he is narrating events to an audience

MAN

Their officials burst into the flat at 3.25 a.m. that dry summer's morning, to find him sound asleep beside a woman of pleasing aspect...

(SIGHS, CHUCKLES)

1ST INTER now walks from the rear, casually circling the couple. MAN watches him. 1ST INTER is aware of MAN watching but relaxed, in control

MAN:

Their officials burst into the flat at 3.25 a.m.; a summer's morning, dry, and they found him sound asleep beside a woman...of pleasing aspect.

1ST INTER stops walking with his hands behind his back he gazes out to the audience, a mocking smile, now

continues circling the couple, casually but at the same time he is patrolling. Now he pauses to the rear

MAN raises himself onto his elbows, shifts to see behind

MAN

Their officials, they burst into the flat

1ST INTER:

Did they really

MAN CONTINUES TALKING BUT SEEMS NOT TO
HAVE HEARD 1ST INTER

MAN

It was dawn, just after it.

MAN LIES BACK DOWN ON THE MATTRESS

1ST INTER (AMUSED]

So, they burst into your flat did they!

MAN

Did you say something there?

1ST INTER (CHUCKLES)

You obviously think you're something
special

MAN

What?

1ST INTER

A woman of pleasing aspect.

1ST INTER glances roundabout the room, and at WOMAN

1ST INTER

Do you truly believe there's something remarkable about this? Eh? Something amazing? Something wildly astonishing? (STEPS A COUPLE OF PACES CLOSER) Sound asleep beside a woman of pleasing aspect! (CHUCKLES)

MAN

Some folk would find it interesting.

1ST INTER

Would they?

MAN CLEARS THROAT AS THOUGH TO SPEAK, BUT DOESN'T

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

You convinced about that? Are you?

MAN

Can I smoke?

1ST INTER

(perfunctorily)

No.

1ST continues circling, smiling to himself, aware of his power

1ST INTER

You live in a wee fantasy world, dont you?

WOMAN still asleep, ostensibly; now shifts her position. The blankets uncover her shoulder and upper arm. IST INTER gazes at her and stops walking

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

Did she have any clothes on?

MAN

What?

1ST INTER

Did she have any clothes on?

MAN

Are you talking to me?

1ST INTER chuckles, resumes walking, then stops abruptly.

1ST INTER

Did he?

MAN just looks at him

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

Did he?

MAN

(baffled)

What...?

1ST INTER

You know what. Did he? Did he have any clothes on?

WOMAN

(SUDDENLY)

He did. Yes. He had his clothes on.

1ST INTER

Ahh.

1ST INTER finds this response by WOMAN significant, and he studies HER. MAN smiles at WOMAN

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

I see

1ST INTER nods and after a moment he looks to the door, buttons the top collar of his shirt. MAN also looks to the door, studies 1ST INTER. 1st INTER, adjusts his tie, tightening the knot; smartening himself up.

1ST INTER continues patrolling but more briskly, hands behind back

MAN and WOMAN whisper together briefly, unintelligibly. 1ST INTER catches them out

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

What was that? What did you say?

WOMAN

You'll never know

MAN

My fantasies are my fantasies

1ST INTER

Yeh well they're not mine pal, that's for sure.
(RESUMES WALKING)

MAN

A lot of folk live their lives dreaming about
such things.

1ST INTER

Do they?

MAN

Yeh (SMILES at WOMAN) Yeh

1ST INTER

Good. Because I dont

WOMAN raises herself onto her elbows to confront him

WOMAN

No, you dont

1ST INTER

That's correct, yes, I dont

WOMAN

Maybe that's your problem

1ST INTER smiles to her, not rising to the bait. WOMAN
continues looking at him, unflinching.

1ST INTER glances at his wristwatch

1ST INTER

(Absentminded)

No dear it's not my problem.

(Now to MAN) So these so-called officials you were rambling on about, as a matter of interest - whose did you say they were?

WOMAN

Ha ha

MAN looks at her, quizzically

1ST INTER

You did say whose they were?

WOMAN

(disgust)

For god sake!

1ST INTER

For god sake! That's a good one, god!

MAN worried looks at WOMAN who makes no response

1ST INTER

(AMUSED, TO MAN)

No, just as a matter of interest, the officials that came bursting into this room - talking authority here pal, the so-called officials - whose did you say they were again?

MAN

Surprise surprise, I didnt

1ST INTER

You didnt. I see

MAN

You know fine well I didnt

1ST INTER

(mocking)

And was it her?

MAN

(Surprised)

What?

1ST INTER

You heard

MAN is worried by this. WOMAN notices

WOMAN

(QUIETLY)

What does he mean?

MAN

(GUILTILY)

Nothing

1ST INTER

Nothing! Huh! You know this is really smelly. [TO WOMAN) His fantasies, so-

called, I'm talking about when you're sleeping. Because that is when he has them

MAN

Aw come on

1ST INTER chuckles

WOMAN

(briskly ironic)

Would you mind very much if we put some clothes on?

1ST INTER

(Heavy sarcasm)

Oh you dont have any on! You're both naked! Afraid to reveal yourself! I see. Sorry. I forgot, if ever I knew, if ever I cared. Mind you, I was wondering how come you were still in bed

1ST INTER resumes circling, hands behind his back

1ST INTER

Well, I say bed, it is hardly a bed, more like a shabby and dirty old mattress, single mattress too, urine stains, if I may hazard a guess - and that's at best, if we think of mattresses..

1ST INTER closes his eyes and shudders

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

(Sarcastic, to WOMAN)

So dear, it is you then, this - what did he call her - woman of pleasing aspect, it's you?

WOMAN

(WEARILY)

Oh god, it goes on and on

MAN

(WHISPERS)

It's alright

WOMAN is not convinced, lowers her head.

1ST INTER

Quiet. . . . You see dear, I'm trying to unravel a modicum of factual matter from all the garbage he talks, your man there - because that is what he talks, garbage

MAN

How come I can't smoke

1ST INTER

Because it's bad for your health. [chortles to himself then stops it] Because I say so

WOMAN

You're so childish

1ST INTER

Aw, am I?

WOMAN

So immature

1ST INTER

Immature! Well, I must say, it isnt me lying in bed giving vent to a bunch of erotic fantasies

MAN

Tch

1ST INTER

Nope. It isnt me

MAN shakes his head, smiles slowly and glances to
WOMAN

MAN

(quietly)

Enough said

1ST INTER

Enough said, yeh, precisely

WOMAN

He was talking to me

1ST INTER

Oh was he...

1ST INTER stops, irritated, mounting impatience. HE takes a deep breath, controlling himself, walks slowly towards them, stares at MAN, menacing

1ST INTER (CONT'D)
The lady was talking to you.

MAN
(Puzzled)
I was talking to her

1ST INTER digests this before replying

1ST INTER
Nice to have a lady to talk to, I wish I had
one

MAN giggles, controls it. WOMAN smiles at him fondly.
This goads 1ST INTER. 1ST INTER now angry, speaks in
clipped military fashion

1ST INTER
I dont like you very much, do you know
that? You are a fart. That is what you are, a
fart.
(now to WOMAN) Talking about your man
here. That is what he is, a fart, a smelly little
thing, odorous, an odorous object. How do
you spell odorous? I often wondered.

WOMAN
(Under her breath)
So childish

1ST INTER
(MENACE)
What!

WOMAN stares at him but says nothing. 1ST INTER steps forward a pace, breathes deeply

1ST INTER

I have the position of power dear, that's why I say these things.

WOMAN glares at 1ST INTER

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

You're looking very seriously at me. In fact I would say you were glaring.

WOMAN still glaring at 1ST INTER. This amuses him

1ST INTER

Oh you're frightening me, you really are!

MAN mutters unintelligibly. This takes 1ST INTER by surprise, and annoys him

1ST INTER

Pardon? Were you muttering something? Mutter mutter. Why do people do that, mutter mutter mutter mutter

1st inter now rubs at his chin, beginning to lose his temper altogether

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

It just gets to me, mutter mutter. Why do people do it, all the time they do it, behind your back, your front, they just

MAN and WOMAN watch him cautiously.

OFFSTAGE banging and bumping noises from outside the room. MAN starts, stares to the door. WOMAN notices his reaction and she too stares at the door.

1ST INTER now relaxes, resumes control

1ST INTER

Because if I thought such muttering was pertinent, I'm talking pertinent then that would not be fine. It would not be fine at all. Now where were we...

1ST INTER studies MAN, but ironically. MAN is very wary. WOMAN notices this, she watches 1ST INTER and also the door

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

What was it you said... [MUSING] Oh I remember, the officials burst into the house or whatever, the room... [GLANCES ROUNDABOUT] The room... Yes. Good.

1ST INTER puts his hand to the knot in his tie, testing it out, adjusts the cuffs of his sleeves, clears his throat and strolls to the rear door. Pause for three seconds, his hand at the handle, before he opens it fully.

ENTER 2ND and 3RD INTERS. They stroll inside, gazing roundabout with interest.

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

(calls to MAN and WOMAN)

As you can see the officials did not burst into the room at all, the door opened and in they walked.

2ND INTER is whistling tunelessly. HE also has his hands behind his back, or in his trouser pockets

1ST INTER

I've been having a word with this fellow, he's got great and unimagineable fantasies. Ask him and see.

3RD INTER

No thanks

2ND INTER

No time, unfortunately, though I enjoy a good fantasy now and then. (DIRECTLY TO 1ST INTER) So, where have you reached and what's been happening?

3RD INTER

Was it her?

2ND

Of course it was her

3RD

And him?

1ST

Him?

1ST INTER is taken by surprise by the question

1ST (CONT'D)

(Hesitant)

Yeh

3RD

Mm I thought it would be.

2ND

(suddenly to MAN and WOMAN)

Okay: up! Up!

MAN and WOMAN rise slowly from beneath the blankets, both naked. Although exposed like this they are not cowed. Neither are they confrontational, they just stand there, naturally.

1st inter is astonished by their boldness.

2nd doesn't know what to think and watches to see 3rd's reaction.

3RD

(Sighs)

Nudity. I see.

3RD waits another moment, then gauges reaction of 1st and 2nd. SHE nods to 1st Inter who comes forward at once

3RD

(matter-of-fact)

Give them their blankets (BORED
SARCASM) Protect their dignity at all costs

1ST reaches and collects the blankets, giving MAN and WOMAN withering stares.

2nd inter nods and declares to nobody in particular

2ND INTER

The essence of their humanity

Nobody responds. MAN and WOMAN remain like statues. 1ST INTER is forced to put the blankets into their hands. HE is intimidated by their proximity. He avoids looking at them.

3rd inter studies 1st and how he conducts himself. 1st inter is aware of her and is irritated.

MAN and WOMAN now hold a blanket each but make no move to conceal themselves.

1ST INTER

(Angrily)

Look at them, they're just holding the blankets in their arms.

3rd Inter continues to study 1st inter. Now 2nd inter smiles.

1ST INTER (CONT'D)

Why dont they cover themselves?

2nd Inter glances at 3rd Inter before speaking

2ND

They're being humorous

1ST

They've been humorous from the start. With a body like his you could only be humorous

2ND
Exactly.

1st and 2nd study MAN. 1st points to MAN's upper arms

1ST
I wonder if he calls them biceps? These
peapods there on his arms

2ND
(With relish)
Gnats knees!

3RD INTER
Maybe he's trying to humiliate us

1st is surprised by this

2ND INTER
(calls to MAN)
Are you trying to humiliate us?

MAN
(To 3rd directly)
We asked for our clothes earlier on, but he
wouldnt allow it

3RD
Wouldnt allow it?

1ST
I said no.

3RD

I trust you had a reason?

1ST

I did

3RD

(To 2nd)

What do you say?

2ND

I say yes. Full agreement, full blown agreement. The issue of allowing, to allow or not to allow, if in doubt don't

3RD

Good.

(to 1st)

So...?

1ST

(Clears throat)

So he's been fantasising about I dont know, adventures, being in bed

3RD

Nothing more?

1ST

Well...with a woman

3rd inter merely nods. 1st inter recognises she expects more

1ST (CONT'D)

Mm... Not apart from that, no, nothing more,
not really I mean [SUDDENLY] His
description, do you mean his description? his
description of her?

3rd does not respond

2ND

(With relish)

His description of her

1ST

(To 3rd)

He said she was of pleasing aspect. He said
she was a woman of pleasing aspect. That
was his fantasy

1st shakes his head.

2ND

(TO 1st)

He only says that because it appears to be the
case.

1st baffled. 2nd glances at 3rd for confirmation. 3rd ignores
him. 2nd continues

2ND

[TO MAN]

Do you enjoy fantasies?

MANchuckles. WOMAN looks from one to the other. 1st
watches, interested in how this develops. 2ND steps

forward. Meanwhile 3rd Inter shifts position and gazes off into the auditorium

2ND (CONT'D)

Did you hear me talking?

MAN

(CLEARS THROAT)

Aye but I didnt think it was a question.

2ND

You didnt think it was a question... This fellow is a logician!

1ST

(Smiles undertainly)

A logician.

3RD

(Calls over her shoulder to 1st inter)

What about her?

1st is baffled, wondering why 3rd is addressing him

3RD (CONT'D)

Does she enjoy them?

1ST

His fantasies?

2ND

(To 1st)

Maybe they're about her!

3RD

They're not

2ND

I didnt think they would be

WOMAN

(WEARILY)

Oh god

MAN giggles.

3RD

(to WOMAN)

You're an atheist, arent you?

WOMAN

Is that a crime now as well?

2ND

Of course. Yes.

3RD

She knew that already

2ND

I know she did

1ST

I would think probably they're both atheists

2ND

Both atheists... In other words, they don't
believe in God

3RD

(SARCASTIC]

Goodness me.

1ST

Though maybe he's just kidding on he's an
atheist: to impress her. Because guys like
him do that, they go about trying to impress
people, about their self-sufficiency, how they
stand alone. Stalwart individuals, rugged
individuals, what do ye call him, Hannibal -
as if anybody gives a shite

2ND

Boring people. Boring people.

2nd strolls as he talks and is now behind MAN and
WOMAN and he suddenly barks at them, very
threatening, taking MAN and WOMAN by surprise

2ND (CONT'D)

I wonder whether they know their rear-end
from their elbow? Eh! Rear-end from their
elbow

1st watches 2nd. Now 2nd begins his tuneless whistling

MAN chuckles. 2nd seems not to notice. But the others all
notice. 2nd Inter glances at the roof, walks a couple of
paces, hands in trousers pockets, relaxed and stands
behind MAN. MAN is acutely aware of 2nd's presence.
2nd addresses 1st INTER.

2ND (CONT'D)

(SIGHS)

Do you know what, sometimes I crave getting back onto dayshift. Honestly. I do. [SHRUGS] It's a genuine craving. Just to get myself away from certain types of disturbance. The kind that happen at night.

1ST

(slowly
At night...

2ND

Or only seem to happen at night. Do you know what I'm saying?

1ST

(cautiously)

You talking about sex? Sexual matters.

2ND

Well yes, yes, I suppose. Things that happen at night. Generally though. I'm speaking generally, in general terms

3RD

Ah, general terms. I always approve of general terms

2ND

Precisely

1ST

Will I tell you how they were when I first appeared next to them? They were side by side. Side by side. The two of them. On the mattress there. [SARCASTIC] Not even a

bed. Look how dirty it is! A mattress, know what I mean...

1st glances at 2nd directly. 2nd looks thoughtfully back at him. MAN and WOMAN calmly watching the pair. 3rd Inter is noting them all - including MAN and WOMAN

1ST (CONT'D)

A mattress... And you would have thought they were asleep too, the way they were lying, not moving, not moving hardly at all, just lying there, their bodies like touching, just like...side by side and.

3RD

Touching?

1ST

Yes. I mean... [tails off lamely]

2D

Excrutiating eh?

1ST

Exactly. Then I hears this voice. And it's him, talking away as if it was a movie he was watching, an erotic movie, I'm talking about a sexy one. Maybe even as if it was going to be a wet dream or something.

2ND

Well well. Hh!

WOMAN smiles at MAN. 3rd inter notices

3RD

(calls to WOMAN)

You said you were an atheist, what do you mean by that?

WOMAN

Can I have some clothes?

2ND

In a minute. You were asked a question

MAN

She knows she was asked a question

1ST

(Heavy sarcasm)

He is really tough!

2ND

Perhaps he is a desperado!

2nd steps up closely to MAN. MAN starts back a little, cannot stop himself

3RD

Do you think he was protecting her?

2nd glances back to 3rd, but is non-committal. 1st watches them both, almost amused

3RD (CONT'D)

(to 1st)

So, what do you think?

1ST

Me?

2nd smiles. 1st doesn't know what to think.

2ND

(cheerily)

Can I smile!

3rd does not respond. 2nd stops smiling

3RD

One is constantly surprised by people, I refer to individual persons, how they may surprise us, we forget that about them

2ND

Indeed

2nd stands there, awaiting further comment or orders.

1ST

I'll tell you what I think...

2nd glances at 3rd to gauge her reaction to this. 3rd merely waits to hear 1st; so 2nd also waits to hear 1st

1ST

That's if you were to ask me, and I was being honest about it, the whole thing, if I was being honest about it, it's smelly. Not only that, it's irritating

2ND

You find it irritating too, eh?

1ST

I do, aye

WOMAN

Oh god

2ND

Listen to her!

1ST

Yes, she doesn't find it irritating.

3RD

It's a pity

3rd's attention now drifts off

1ST

It is a pity. Mind you, sex and smelliness and things like that, they all go together To me they are indissoluble. Is indissoluble a word?

2ND

It may well be

1ST

If it is a word then it is appropriate

2ND resumes a tuneless whistle;

1ST (CONT'D)
(HESITANT)
Not think so?

3RD
You're being silly.

1ST
(AGGRESSIVELY)
Sorry... [PAUSE. THEN CONCILIATORY]
Sorry

3RD
It doesnt pay to be silly.

1ST
I'm sorry

3RD
Basics.

1ST
Of course

MAN clears throat as though to speak. WOMAN shakes her head but smiles. MAN nods. 2nd and 1st are startled by this. 3rd watches them all

2ND
Communication! Now that is silly, right
under our very noses

1st

It isn't the first time. All he does is clear his throat and she smiles at him! What's that about! I mean it's totally unintelligible.

2ND

Exactly

1ST

Perhaps they're getting impatient, they want to be on the move...

2ND

(WITH RELISH)

On the move. Do you think so?

1ST

I do, aye, him especially

2ND

Maybe he requires the lavvy!

1ST

(AMUSED)

The lavvy!

3RD

I doubt it

2ND

I'll ask him.

2nd approaches MAN from the rear and side

2ND (CONT'D)

(TO MAN, loudly)

Do you require the lavvy? (TURNS TO 1ST AND 3RD INTERS) He could be wetting himself. That's what happens with heroes a lot of the time, the condition of incontinence

3RD

You think he's a hero do you?

2ND

Not me. I was simply saying, the condition of incontinence (GIVES AN EXAGGERATED SNIFF] Odour-free garments, always a joy

1ST

(AMUSED])

It was funny earlier. They hadn't heard me at first, they didn't know I was here. I just suddenly appeared. What is the opposite of vanishing into the ether?

2ND

The genie of the lamp

1ST

Yes, that was me. All shadowy there at the back of the room, and the two of them, and the mattress and me there and them not knowing, because they didn't realize, I just like was there... And then that voice, his voice, blethering on in some weirdish fantasy tone, if you could call it that. Also, when he knew I was here, he started injecting a bit of sarcasm into the timbre, the tone, the way he was saying it

3RD
Sarcasm?

1ST
It sounded like sarcasm to me

3RD
Did it?

1ST
It did, aye

3RD
Mm. [BUSINESSLIKE] What else?

1ST
(NETTLED))
Yeh okay, what else, but still I mean do you not find it funny how come they can achieve it? This one for example, all his little laughs and guffaws.

2ND
Silent innuendo I call it

1ST
Yet he was wetting himself, he really was

3RD
(SIGHS)
I wish you would find a less formal method of description

1ST
What?

1st glances from 3rd to 1st and back

3RD
Something less rigorous. It's rather offputting.
Silly in fact.

1ST
(QUIET DEFIANCE)
Sorry

3RD
Anything further?

1ST
Well eh another thing I was immediately
thinking, considering just, I mean, to do with
the relationship between the two of them, if it
was permanent; if it had been finalised in
some official sense; I was considering that, if
they are bound together as husband and
wife; are they married or what

3RD
They are not married

2ND
I beg your pardon

3RD
At least not to each other

2ND

I hope they aren't living in sin

MAN nudges WOMAN; both chuckle

2ND (CONT'D)

Quiet!

1ST

I've caught them whispering before, when they thought I wasn't listening, when I wasn't looking. Maybe he's braver than we think!

2ND

Indeed, but there's a difference between bravery and bravado

1ST

I caught them whispering before

3RD

And what about exchanging things. Did you see any of that? Did you for instance catch him in the act of giving her something - an object of some sort? Might he have passed her something under your nose so to speak

1ST

(DEFIANT]

No. Not at all. They were naked.

3RD

Were naked?

1ST
(PAUSE]
Are naked

3RD
They might be hiding something in the
blankets, within the folds

1ST
They aren't

3RD
Did you check?

1ST
Eh...

3RD
(TO 2nd)
Did you check?

2ND
Me? No, no I didnt. I was with you.

3RD
You were with me.

2ND
(DEFENSIVELY)
I didnt think it was necessary

3RD
Mmm

1ST
I didnt either

3RD
Fine. If you're sure

1ST
I am...

3rd nods. 1st surveys MAN and WOMAN points to the door at the rear

1ST (CONT'D)
So, when I was standing there, just as I was standing there, at that very point...

2ND
(INTERRUPTS)
Irrelevancies, you're coming out with irrelevancies.

1ST
What?

2nd sighs and looks away

1ST (CONT'D)
But it's these wee nuances that are important

2ND

(IRONIC]

Oh

1ST

Aren't they?

1st looks to 3rd. 3rd glances at HER wristwatch

3RD

Just let's get on

1ST

It doesn't matter anyhow I don't suppose. It's only I thought they were of possible significance. Even causal significance

3rd and 2nd are interested now

1ST (CONT'D)

the nuances.

3RD

I see

1ST

Or at least relevant, I thought they would be at least relevant

3RD

Yes?

1ST

Well yes... [DEFENSIVE BUT DETERMINED] Although fair enough because I see something as relevant, obviously that doesn't entail its being relevant, not its actually being relevant, as something from me, as though I would give rise to such a likelihood or like eventuality

3RD

Doesn't it?

1ST

(PUZZLED)

Eh... Eh...

3RD

(PATIENTLY)

You simply cannot hope to procure them all without either going in front or going behind...

1st sighs, stares at the floor

3RD (CONT'D)

It is just not possible. And you must already be scoring through others, including those you assume to be irrelevant. Underline that. And don't worry, you should not worry. Just set them out, putting forward the ones you recall at the given moment. Then you stick to it. You have to disregard failure. Completely. Decisively. If you do not succeed in that then you cannot hope to achieve an objective. Truly, I say this to you both.

2nd pays heed to this.

WOMAN slowly grasps MAN by the hand and holds him. 3rd notices but makes no sign of it. 1st and 2nd don't notice, they are too intent on watching 3rd.

3RD (CONT'D)

There is not anything that is more certain

WOMAN lets go MAN'S hand. No one notices. 1st is staring at 3rd, awkwardly, shuffles his feet and stares at the floor

3RD

(KINDLY]

Dont apologise

1st glances at her, sniffs and clears his throat, stares at floor. 3rd waits a moment then turns away. 2nd is now galvanised and circles MAN and WOMAN

2ND

(TO MAN AND WOMAN)

You pair, you're beginning to cause no little dissent amongst my friends and colleagues

3RD glances at 2nd

WOMAN

We're sorry

2ND

No you're not. That's the thing you are not, is sorry. You are not sorry. The concept apologetics, there is a central issue

1ST

It's not really an issue. [ANNOYANCE] What it is, they think because they're atheists and anti-establishment that they're already in front to begin with (STRIDES A COUPLE OF PACES] This annoys me, it really does [NOW WITH QUIET MENACE] It instils in me a measure of agitation

MAN

(QUIETLY]

It's okay...

MAN touches WOMAN on the hand

1ST

Look! He's touching her!

2ND

Touching her! [EXAGGERATED SURPRISE]
Was he touching her?

1ST

Right in front of your eyes he was touching her! Just where you were standing! Exactly, just there, you were standing right there

3RD

(Genuine interest)

He actually touched her...?

1ST

(ANGRILY]

I could lose my temper here!

2ND

(CONTROLLED AGGRESSION]

Yes, indeed.

3RD

While you were both standing beside him, he actually touched her?

2ND

The insolence!

3RD

It is unbelievable!

1ST

A person like him!

2ND

Aye, you said it, a person, because he's not a man! If he was a man, a real man, if he was a real man... Eh! Can you imagine a genuine real man being in a plight like this!

1ST

You're right. You are dead right.

2ND

They're not even married. If he was a real man they would be married. I mean a genuine real man, he would be married

MAN and WOMAN stand steady

3RD

They dont believe in marriage

2ND

What!

1ST

Honest?

3RD

(WALKS TO WOMAN)

They dont, they dont believe in marriage.

(TO WOMAN) Tell them.

WOMAN

There's nothing to tell

3RD

There's everything to tell. You dont believe in marriage; thus you dont believe in children.

1ST

In children?

2ND

Apparently

3RD

You dont believe in the family, nor yet in its sanctity

MAN and WOMAN continue to stand steady

1ST

But what about the monarchy and its sanctity? Do they believe in that? I speak of our royal family surely they believe in them?

3RD

Of course not

2ND

(HEAVY SARCASM]

For heaven sake!

1ST

Do they believe in anything?

3RD

Nothing.

1ST

What about our other institutions, surely they believe in them!

3RD

They dont. They do not believe in a single thing. Not a single solitary thing.

WOMAN

Not even that we're standing here being threatened by you

MAN

[TO WOMAN]

Hey...
[reaches to touch her]

2ND
Look. he's touching her again

1ST
Heh you, you and the lady here, a question...

2ND
Somebody's talking to you

MAN
But he hasn't asked me anything yet. So I
don't have to answer

2ND
Of course you do

MAN
But it's daft

2ND
(INCRECULITY]
What?

1ST
(INCRECULITY]
What was it he said?

2ND
I'm not too actually sure. Indeed, I think he
said it was daft. Or I was daft. Or was it you? I

think it was you, that he said you were daft.
[STEPS TOWARDS COUPLE] One could lose
one's self control. One could easily succumb
to one's lower animal instincts

1ST

That would be a great pleasure.

3RD

Mmm...

2ND

(To 1ST)

You know, I'm beginning to get sick of these
two. (PACES ABOUT, CONTAINING
ENERGY) Before I was just bored and a wee
bit irritated. But now, now - now I'm getting
totally browned off. And yes, I've got to
admit it, the first actual stirrings of anger, of
that possibility

MAN

We didnt ask you to come here

2ND

Oh goody

3RD

(TO WOMAN)

You're being impressed

WOMAN

Yes. Thanks for advising me of it

3RD

Not at all, it's part of what I do well.

WOMAN glances at 3rd but 3rd has turned from her

3RD (CONT'D)

And does your husband know about this?

WOMAN

Who?

1ST

Her kind doesn't have husbands

2nd glances at 1st, quizzically. 1st explains to him:

1ST

(CONT'D)

Society has institutions and marriage is one of them

2ND

Indeed

1ST

Some people live outside the institutions, that's what I'm talking about

WOMAN laughs quietly

3RD

You're laughing?

WOMAN

Yes

3RD

You know it isn't easy asking you those questions.

WOMAN

That isn't my problem

3RD

Nor is it mine

WOMAN

(IRONIC]

Then why advise us of it

3RD

(Smiles)

You're confused. But it is appealing. The simplicity

MAN glances at 3rd which surprises 1st and 2nd

1ST

(To 2nd)

That bravado you were talking about earlier, mind?

2ND

I do, yes

1ST

What was it you were saying about it?

MAN

Can we please have some clothes?

2ND

Note the please!

1ST

Aye but it was still said while I was speaking.
[ANGRILY] He interrupted me. I hate it
when that happens, it really makes me...ye
know what I mean, I'm clenching my fists
here...

1st clenches both fists and he looks at them

1ST (CONT'D)

...containing my rage, trying to I should say.
(WALKS A FEW PACES, GLARES AT MAN)
Do you always interrupt people? [LONG
PAUSE] I'm talking to you, hey

MAN stares steadfastly to the front

3RD

You were asked a question

WOMAN

It was rhetorical

MAN

Yes

MAN and WOMAN nudge shoulders together. 3rd smiles

2ND

Look! their shoulders are touching

1ST

He leaned his shoulder into her, can you believe it!

2ND

Right under our noses

3RD

(AMUSED]

Now that was rhetorical.

1ST

We only ask straight questions

WOMAN

(WEARILY]

Oh god

MAN

How come we can't get our clothes?

3RD

I dont know. You tell me

MAN

Because you wont let us

3RD

Ho!

MAN
Give us our clothes

1ST

Listen to the fart!

MAN
Yes

1ST
Pardon?

1st is nonplussed, glances at 2nd

2ND
Dont look at me

1ST
What did he mean by that?

2ND
Never mind

3RD
(MATTER-OF-FACTLY
Did we bring the flask?

1ST
Eh...

3RD

Did we bring the flask?

1ST

The flask?

3RD

(Turning from him)

It's outside.

1ST

Sorry

1st stands there. 3rd glances at him briefly. 2nd is whistling tunelessly

3RD

The flask is outside

1st looks from 3rd to 2nd and back to 3rd

1ST

Oh... I'll get it.

3RD

Thank you

1st strides determinedly to the door, exits. 2nd waits a moment then resumes pacing slowly round the MAN and WOMAN

2ND

Do you two regard yourselves as ordinary citizens?

(TO 3RD) I have a feeling they're Irish, d'you know that

3rd is taking the bag from her shoulder, not interested in 2nd's observations.

3RD

Mmm.

But 2nd doesn't expect her to be interested and batters on.

2ND

Irish? Is that it? You want to be ruled by the Pope? Eh son? Is that your Defender of the Faith? The Pope? His Holiness the Pope? Well well, imagine wanting to be ruled by the Pope! Tch tch tch! And you a good atheist too! That's what I cannot understand, the thing that is incomprehensible to me.

WOMAN sighs

3RD

(AMUSED]

That was a bored sigh

2ND

Bored?

3RD

[SMILES KNOWINGLY] Of course. They're dominated by contradiction. Folk like this. Contradictions abound. Not think so?

3RD

I do, yes.

2nd continues, and will glance at his feet as appropriate

2ND

It must be difficult even walking down the road: the left foot going this way and the right foot going the other! Left and right, one never knows what they're up to, it is a mystery to me

The door opens. 1ST INTER returns. His tie is unknotted and the top button of his shirt unbuttoned. 1st sets articles onto the small table, a flask and some paper cups, a packet of chocolate biscuits

3RD

Well done

1ST

Yeah

3rd's gaze at 1st lingers; she has noticed his shirt and tie

2ND

(CALLS to 1st)

Hey, this pair here, I've just discovered they want to be ruled by the Pope!

1ST

What did you say?

2ND

Ruled by the Pope!

1ST

Maybe they're not atheists after all!

2ND

Exactly, that is what I was thinking. Mind you, if they don't believe in the royal family and they don't believe in the almighty God - re sanctity - and now here they are wanting to be ruled by his holiness the Pope... Or is it not wanting to be ruled by his holiness the Pope? You hardly know where you are, or where one is!

3RD

You're being silly.

2ND

Silly...?

3RD

Yes.

3rd sees that 1st continues to stand by the small table

3RD (CONT'D)

Are you pouring the tea?

1ST

Eh yes, of course

1st makes to begin

3RD

Just now?

1st stops, hesitant

3RD (CONT'D)

Wait a minute

1ST

I just thought...

WOMAN whispers unintelligibly. 2nd is closeby and tries to hear. 3rd notices this. 2nd is shocked MAN smiles. 2nd glares at him

3RD

(Amused)

What did she say

2ND

Can I touch his naked shoulders?

1ST

Beg pardon? Am I hearing right?

2ND

(SIGHS)

Minor humiliations

1ST

Minor humiliations?

2ND

Of course. Said to annoy us?

3RD

Precisely

2ND

To annoy each one of us. And it does annoy us

1ST

I'm not so sure

3rd studies him, studies his tie. 1st now grasps the problem and knots his tie. 2nd looks from MAN to WOMAN

2ND

I wonder if she really likes him? I dont see how it's possible.

MAN touches her arm

2ND (CONT'D)

He's touching her arm again, look!

1ST

Touching her arm!

2ND

(MENACING])

Yes...

1ST

Aggressive behaviour

3RD

It is, yes...

1ST

(AGGRESSIVELY]

One wonders what to do next!

2ND

(MENACING) I don't, I never wonder, not at all. Certainly not what to do next; actions give rise to actions, forget causes, who cares about causes, here's an action and there's an action. The follow through is what counts. One merely follows through

1ST

But what of reaction? Reaction I mean? Is reaction not I mean for goodness sake like an action, if it is a reaction, what else can it be?

2ND

Precisely.

1ST

Because that is the nature of the task

2ND

Exactly

1ST

Because without that...

2ND

Indeed

1st and 2nd stare at MAN and WOMAN

3RD

Let matters rest a moment

1ST
What?

2nd just looks at her

3RD
Let things of importance be indicated

1ST
Yes

2ND
IN UNISON Indeed

1ST
About what we've established?

3RD
About what has been established, yes

2ND
Exactly

3RD
Go on

1ST
Me? About what has been established? Oh eh well definite items have been established, indicators I suppose - guides we could call them, to character and personality...
[HESITATES]

3RD

Go on

1ST

For example certain points I would regard as eh, well, I suppose for instance even the atheism, just the atheism, that lack of belief in God as Almighty, the inviolable supremacy, not seeing that. And eh the Royal Family of course, no belief in that either - our Supreme Heads of State too. [AWKWARDLY] Plus as well you've got ordinary family life, its sanctity. And actual authority. As vested in ourselves. Because it is vested in ourselves.

This pair here dont pay it a fitting regard, I wouldnt say so... It seems to me they really just flout it, their sarcasm and eh... When they know it too I mean it's not as if they're in ignorance I mean if they were in ignorance, a genuine real ignorance, if it was that, but it's not that, because they're in full awareness, they've got a full awareness, they bloody know. [almost losing his temper]

They bloody know fine well! So when they know too I mean...it's eh...eh... I mean it's not as if they're in ignorance.

3RD

Mmm...

1ST

(stalling for time)

Eh... So...

3RD

Yes?

1ST

Mmm... So... Not his fantasies... D'you mean his fantasies? Is it his fantasies?

3RD

Are you making a statement?

1ST

Eh...

3RD

(kindly, as to a child)

Well are you?

1ST

Eh I'm eh...

3RD

Either it is yes or it is no. It has to be one thing or it has to be the other.

3rd swivels to confront 2nd, taking him by surprise

3RD (CONT'D)

Do you agree?

2ND

(surprised)

Me...?

3RD

You, yes. Do you agree?

2ND

Well not exactly, not exactly.

3RD

Mmm.

2ND

No, not exactly.

3RD

Proceed

1ST

Their sarcasm I would say I mean, mainly I suppose. That sense of it coming out in different forms, isolated forms: a series of incidents of authority flouted. Even that last comment she made, 'naked shoulders', saying 'naked shoulders' like that, the way she did it, I mean right out in the open, in front of us.

2ND

Exactly.

1ST

Yes and then as well of course you've got it back to when they just stood up and were...nude

2ND

Nude

1ST

Well I mean naked . . . their bodies, them being eh well naked like that, without covering it up, their nudity [SHUDDERS]just standing for that split second, without, without doing it, not covering themselves, their bodies

3RD

So, you have an inference?

1ST

Oh well it's precise that we're here

3RD

You would say so

1ST

DEFENSIVELY] Yeh.

2ND QUIET LAUGH

1ST (CONT'D)

Why are you laughing?

2ND

Oh no reason

3RD

Nothing to add?

1ST

To add...?

2nd LAUGHS AGAIN

3RD

TO 2ND] Do you think there is?

2ND

Yes

3RD

Good

1ST

Well okay, obviously, obviously I mean there must be, I know that, of course, but I'm just eh I'm just eh, not up to thinking it all out, not at this exact moment, the way everything is, the situation... It's as if...

3RD

As if?

1ST

Sorry

3RD

No, go on. As if?

1ST

As if...eh I dont know really... It's just not conducive or something - the atmosphere, the entire atmosphere, of this place. (SHIVERS) It's not got the proper sort of atmosphere, something in the air, something just...I dont

know, it's like ye can feel it... [SHIVERS AGAIN]

3RD

PAUSE] I would not dispute your claim, not necessarily. (TO 2nd) What do you say?

2ND

Me?

3RD

On the question of potential indicators, matters arising, from what has been established

2ND

What has been established?

3RD

Yes

2ND

About everything?

3RD

Yes

2ND

In terms of probability?

3RD

If you like

2ND

Do you mean out in the open, in front of everybody?

3RD

Not if it embarrasses you

2ND

Pardon?

3RD

Would it embarrass you? Are you easily embarrassed?

2ND

No

3RD

Are you sure?

2ND

I am sure, yes, indeed

3RD

I just wondered you see some people do tend toward it

2ND

I'm not one of them

3RD

Fine. [PAUSE] Alright?

2ND

Yes

3RD

AMUSED] Sorry

2ND

There's nothing to be sorry about

3RD

That's good. You see what worries me, what occasionally worries me...

1ST

Does it concern minor humiliations?

3RD

Yes, yes I am. But perhaps I'm thinking aloud. What was that earlier derivation? His description of the woman, can you remember?

1ST

He referred to her as a woman of pleasing aspect

2ND

AMUSED) A wee male fantasy

3RD

Is it?

2ND

PAUSE) Very likely

3RD

SUDDEN IMPATIENCE) We must process things more readily. I shall state briefly what I dislike about them and why I feel they are to be punished rightly. And I'm aware you can find it peculiar. It is just that they are not us. There is something distinctly unwholesome about it, both it and the circumstances surrounding it. Something that makes me uneasy. A measure of unhealthiness; a thing that is unhealthy, that makes me want to shudder.

1ST

Yeh

3RD

SLOWLY] I feel it. [TO 2ND] Can you?

2ND

Yes, I can, I can. It's palpable

3RD

WHISPERS] Palpable

MAN sighs

1ST

They're looking at us!

2ND

(COMMANDS)

Face the front!

3rd
MILD SURPRISE
Look at them. So brazen!

1ST
And nosy! My fists keep clenching. It would
be nice to just...

MAN
Can I smoke?

2ND
It is as though they just will not learn.

3RD
They wont learn. [AMUSED] I doubt if they
shall

1ST
CHUCKLES
Can I be sexist a minute? [TAILS OFF, SELF
CONSCIOUS] No, sorry

3RD
Please, go on . . . Please, go on

1ST
Eh I'd rather not. It's eh . . . silly, a bit silly.

2ND
Yes

3RD

It's the sort of occurrence I detest. I can never fathom why it occurs. Yet it always does. Always. And at the same time always, too, it remains beyond the scope of prediction. Do you know that general sensation of being in a war against an army composed entirely of spies, of covert agencies, where every last individual looks exactly like yourself? In the most important sense possible you know, those closest to you are often the very ones arraigned in opposition

1ST

I didnt mean it the way it sounded

3RD

Certain factors often seem peripheral.
(WALKS A COUPLE OF STEPS] Do you ever feel that?

WOMAN

You're a fascist. Nothing else is of any account

3RD

Your language is so...slipshod.

2ND

The convenience of labels.

1ST

Indeed

2ND

You certainly are not a fascist

3RD

Thank you

WOMAN

You are

1ST

It is so imprecise, that is the thing.

2ND

Did she mean all three of us?

3RD

Only me I think. Such people believe the very utterance of a word can send a body into apoplectic frenzy. They are very naive.

WOMAN

(exasperated)

Oh

3RD

Note that I've annoyed her. All because I described her as naive! It's extraordinary. Extraordinary.

MAN

Are we to be given our clothes?

3RD

How gallant. He's allowing her breathing space,

2ND

Maybe he is courageous after all!

3RD

Is she?

2ND

Yeh

3RD

TO 1st) Think so?

1ST

Mmm

3RD

Do you care one way or the other? You see
I'm rather uncertain about what you think

1ST

I just dont like them, that's what I think. The
pair of them, I just dont like it, them

3RD

And you want it made public?

1ST

I dont care

3RD

Do you lose interest?

1ST

Sometimes.

2ND

I dont... [TUNELESS WHISTLING]

3RD

Do you prepare for the bolt from the blue?

2ND

Pardon?

MAN laughs, quietly but unable to stop himself

MAN

It's like there are these newspaper articles in front of my eyes...or even like I'm taking part in a movie, or a novel. And there's somebody reading out the narrative bits. And they're saying about me how it was when I did the thing, the whatever it was, the hasty deed, the bold action, the existential fucking mover! Aw christ! You hear this voice, the narrator, talking about me as if I was the real character, and there's this vision, an image of me, I'm creeping along...and moving like a swimmer, a one armed swimmer...and it's at the side of these great big bushes, gigantic ones, a tremendous thick undergrowth. And there's spotlight beams away over and they're continually swivelling, swivelling, maybe going to pick me out for fuck sake but no, on I run, quietly and steadily christ I'm going to get away with it...Yeh, I'm going to get away with it...

1st and 2nd walk to him immediately

2ND
Hullo...

3RD
I dont believe it.

2ND
A wee con perhaps?

1ST
It's another fantasy! This fellow loves fantasies! Batman and Robin! Spider Man and that green fellow with the sort of liquidised eh what is it, belly? Maybe he read action comics when he was a boy?

(CALLS to MAN)

Heh you! Did you?

2ND
AMUSED]
Your man here, he enjoys the fantasy routine eh!

WOMAN
CLEARS THROAT)
He's not the only one

2ND
What?

3RD
It's alright, she's referring to me... [CALMLY]
Shift them apart, now. Have them face the wall.

1st and 2nd separate MAN AND WOMAN, position them
apart from each other

3RD (CONT'D)

Where is the book?

2ND

It's in the compartment

3RD

Thank you.

SHE WALKS TO THE DOOR

3RD (CONT'D)

Oh eh would you prepare the tea?

1st looks at her then nods, speaks a little aggressively

1ST

Okay

3RD

And make the telephone call.

1ST

Just now

3rd stares at him then smiles

3RD

Just now, yes, thank you

1st exits

MAN

Can I have a smoke please?

2ND

I'll tell you something for nothing son, if we say yes then you better start worrying

1st LAUGHS ABRUPTLY

2ND

Did ye get it?

1ST

Last request of the drowning man?

2ND

If it was me it would be a nice cup of tea.
[RESUMES TUNELESS WHISTLING

1ST PREPARING CUPS ETC. FOR TEA

1ST

I feel like a cup myself! It's been a long night.

2ND

Mind the phone call!

1ST

Oh aye... [SPEAKs INTO CELL PHONE BUT UNINTELLIGBLE UNTIL...] Yes. Yes.

2ND

Keep your eyes to the front son

WOMAN

Why do you call him son?

2ND

Because he's younger than me

WOMAN

Yes, and he always will be

2ND

Snappy! [THEN HEAVILY, STEADILY)
You'll make me angry in a minute!

WOMAN

Good

2ND

You will actually

WOMAN

Good.

MAN

How come we cant get our clothes?

2ND

She prefers you the way you are

MAN
AMUSED) I know

2ND
Dont do it too often son. It doesnt pay. So
how long have you two been together then?

WOMAN
Not long enough

2ND
And having a full sexual relationship, even
though you arent married, you're quite
happy to admit to it?

1ST
(Calls sarcastically)
They are a disgrace to Her Majesty's society

2ND
PERSISTING
You're quite happy to admit to that?

WOMAN
Admit to that! I'm proud of it - I've been
trying to have a full sexual relationship with
him for years!

2ND
You are both subversive elements, you are
radical left wing terrorists, anarchists,
lunatics...!

MAN & WOMAN chuckle

2ND

Dont be humorous about it!

WOMAN

I apologise

2ND

You dont mean it. So dont say it.

(CALLS TO 1ST) They think sarcasm becomes them!

1ST

That was never an apology. I know what an apology sounds like. People like them apologise left right and centre. Is it absolutely invalid to lose one's temper?

2ND

I wonder you can contain yourself.

1ST

Honestly, I'm beginning to think she's a transvestite!

2ND

Maybe they're a pair of homosexuals!

WOMAN

WEARILY) Oh god

MAN

Surely we can get our clothes?

2ND

Their clothes!

WOMAN

Can we sit down?

2ND

Sit down! (ANGRILY) Hear that! Sit down! They'll be wanting to go back to bed next! You see... (CONTROLLING HIS ANGER) You see...with all this long list of grievances you both have, what I want to know - just for my own benefit - what I'm wanting to know - how come you dont emigrate! Eh? D'you understand what I'm saying, how come you dont bloody emigrate? If you hate this country as much as all that then surely you must want to leave, eh! That is the logic. To go and live somewhere else. [CALMLY] Because that's what I would do if it was me; indeed, it seems obvious, the obvious course: if you need a direction - that's what I'm talking about, a direction, if that's what you require

3rd suddenly appears

3RD

Just leave them

2ND

I didnt hear you enter

3RD

YAWNS)

I never left. Come and have your tea

1ST

That's it ready

2ND

Yes, but what I don't understand about them... [HE PACES TO AND FRO] What I don't understand. [ABRUPTLY AND LOUDLY] You are a pair of bloody lunatics! Do you know that? Are you aware of it? Has no one ever told you? None of your best bloody friends! That you are a pair of bloody lunatics! (PAUSE) Aren't they! Damn pair of loonies, they should be locked up! Look at them! (STEPS A PACE) The smugness! The way they just stand there. Trying so hard not to lose their self composure! As if they're fooling us! See the insolence! Eh? Plus that assumption, there's always that assumption: that we're of substandard intelligence! Do you know what I mean? Like it's a presupposition! It's underpinning everything! Every damn thing! That is what I cannot go. And I'm not afraid to admit it. Because it damn well bloody sickens me. My stomach. Right in my stomach, like it's a worm gnawing away. Their little games of fantasy. And that superiority; all the time that superiority, underpinning everything. [LOUDLY] Everything! [PAUSE] Ho! Did you see that! He flinched! As soon as he heard my footsteps. He thought I was going to hit him! Well well well! Yer man there! Look, he's shitting himself! Courageous! Hah! Boring. Boring. That's what I'd say: bloody boring! Relax son, nobody here would even piss on you.

SOUND TEA CUPS.

SCENE 2

APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES LATER

1ST, 2ND and 3RD sit sipping their tea,
relaxed, chatting sociably as in a teabreak

1ST

Death does have its good points though; all that stuff you no longer have to do. There again but, all that stuff might just happen to include the details you like in life and wouldnt mind doing for a while yet, given the opportunity. I'm thinking of basic matters

2ND

Basic matters?

1ST

Yeh, seeing the sunrise for example. (AMUSED) Okay, sex. (NOW SERIOUSLY) Taking your kids down to the seaside; sandcastles and the rest of it, paddling ponds. Christmas. Seeing in the New Year with your friends and family. Plus all the other social oblique domestic activities you have to get involved in every now and then

2ND

Mmm...

1ST

You obviously dont agree

2ND

Eh well, it's not exactly that, not exactly, it's more...I dont know...

MAN

WHISPERS]

Excuse me...

2ND

IGNORES MAN

I think, indeed, if I'm to be honest about it, I'm just not as positive as you

1ST

It's not to do with that

2ND

Mmm

1ST

It's not. I mean I'm not all that positive myself

2ND

Oh I wouldnt be too sure. Even making satements about things you like. I would

suggest that that in itself is positive, it's being positive. It's a positive action

MAN

WHISPERS] Excuse me...

1ST

IGNORES MAN] But it's not! Heaven sake, you can know what you like without being positive about it, without making positive statements about it, them, the things you like in life. A lot of people know what they like in life and they wouldnt be ashamed of admitting it. Surely you're no going to turn round and tell me they all have to start being classified as positive? (AMUSED, THEN STOPS AND IS SERIOUS) Or are you?

2ND

Maybe not. But I've got to say it, those statements you're always making, they're decisions. And if they're decisions...!

1ST

I'm no so sure. I mean I dont think I would be happy describing them as decisions. Honest. When you're saying that you're saying a heck of a lot, and it strikes me that to make such a leap from there to someplace else...well...

2ND

So how would you describe them then?

1ST

Not like that. I wouldnt, no

2ND

Well I would if it was me

3RD

So would I

1ST

Oh...

MAN

WHISPERS

Excuse me... May I please go to the toilet?

3RD

IGNORES MAN

What else can they be?

1ST

I just dont think I could ever have described them as that, decisions

2ND

You will now.

1ST

Yes, I think so

2ND

You see it's decisions about what you like, the significant things, these aspects you appreciate; sunrise, seeing the dawning of a new day. And of course sex and the rest of it. Fine. Smashing. Indeed. I mean it, every word. In fact I have to admit I envy you. I do.

Honest to God, and I'm not at all kidding. You're able to arrive at this that and the next stage; showing preference, stating demands. These events you wish to see happening, how progress is to be shaped, then to take place... Because I can't. I just can't. I've never been able to. Not even as a kid, back when I was a wee boy rushing here there and everywhere. This sounds funny, but take strolls with your parents in the evening sunshine: I've always had a daft regard for that. Always. Even now I've got my own family, my own wee boy and wee girl, I want to take them out just the same. (AMUSED) Whether they want to or not. And yet, if I am being honest about it, I don't even know - I mean I am yet to be convinced, because I can never work it out properly - that it's a thing I can talk about. Or rather, a thing that can be talked about. [HE RISES FROM CHAIR] D'you know what I'm saying?

1ST

Here's my own thoughts, okay: I think you're best diving straight in and shouting to yourself: This is great! This is really great! Astonishingly great! This is what I really like and must want to keep on doing. At all costs!

3RD

SUDDENLY] Ho! (QUIETLY LAUGHS)

1ST

Yeh okay, fair enough, you're laughing, but if I could manage it, just if I could manage it. I'd be well away!

3RD

Of course. So would everybody.

1ST

Aye but...

3RD

There are no aye buts. There arent any. If what you say was true and could be managed then we shouldnt be requiring solutions all the time. We shouldnt. There just wouldnt be any problems you see. None at all. They would've evaporated, they would've disappeared into thin air

1ST

Eh... (AMUSED) I think that's what I was trying to say

3RD

Do you?

1ST

Yeh, I think

3RD

I'm afraid you may still be realizing matters in far too acritical a fashion

2ND

CALLS TO 1st)

I dont think it's possible to think the way you do at all!

1ST

Aw come on!

2ND

I dont.

3RD

You know when one finally accepts a few basic truths - for example, that people are dying of starvation the wide world over, every day of the week, every week of the year, every minute of the day, one two three... four five six...

2ND

Yeh you see you cant do it. Not really. It just doesnt become a possibility. It ceases to exist as one. When you know what's going on. I mean in the real world. When you see what's happening out there. Once you become aware of certain factors you always know them. Always. "Even unto the last days", the bitter end. (TO 3rd) Is that correct?

3RD

Mmm

1ST

Well what the heck else do you do? For heaven sake! What the heck else is there! I mean you've got to do something, havent you!

1st RISES FROM HIS CHAIR, WALKS TOWARDS MAN AND WOMAN, STOPS, ONLY JUST NOTICING THEM

1ST

ABSENTLY

Look at these two. I think they're asleep on their feet. [CALLS] You've got to do something other wise you'd go mad. I would anyway. I'd crack up

2ND

Yeh?

1ST

Yeh, so would you! I've seen it happen to folk before. And I'm speaking about good folk. Ones who were strong. They were strong and good. They were brave, and didn't give in easily

3RD

What's that got to do with anything?

1ST

Pardon?

3RD

RISING FROM HER CHAIR

I dont see what that has to do with anything at all, not really, if you crack up

1ST

FROWNS

If I crack up...? If I crack up I crack up. I'm talking about if I crack up, if you crack up. If you crack up you crack up.

3RD

Yes?

1ST

You crack up. Finito. Finished.

3RD

So, fine, for the sake of argument, you've cracked up; so what? [ASIDE] Check the window

2ND

Right

1ST

How do you mean?

3RD

YAWNS

It's how you mean, not how I mean

1ST

Well I mean if you crack up like if you have a breakdown. You're finished. Kaput. Cheerio, you're finished

3RD

Yes I see all that: but so what?

1ST

[HESITANT] Pardon?

3RD

So what?

1ST

Eh... [PAUSE. CALLS TO 2ND) Why are you shaking your head?

2ND

Me? I was just looking at my watch, I didnt realise it was so late...

1ST

If yous dont tell me I'll never know

2ND

AMUSED] No it's just, okay, you've reached that fine point where you crack up; and then you do crack you up - so you've cracked up. So what?

3RD

PAUSE) Dont worry about things unduly

1ST

I'm not

3RD

That's good

1ST

But I'm not

3RD

SITS] It can be a mistake to worry unduly

1ST

Yeh I know, I mean I do know that

3RD

That's good

1ST

I think I've missed out somewhere.

2ND

Mm.

1ST

An implication or something

2ND

I see... [STROLLS, STOPS] It's good the way they can stand like that for so long, isn't it, the man and woman there. It's as if they get into a trance

3RD

They do though! That's precisely the case

2ND

It's as if they're sleeping standing up!

3RD

Well they are: if you were to walk across and poke them somewhere sensitive then you couldn't guarantee a response

2ND

But you could predict one, surely?

3RD

You can predict anything

2ND

Well...

3RD

Can't you?

2ND

Oh indeed, indeed. So can anybody

3RD

People frequently take things in too serious a fashion. It can be a wonder to behold. It's larger than life. As far as I'm concerned it becomes a sure sign of self centredness. It's the style of individual activity I regard as sterile. It's an abuse. (PAUSE) What accent did she have?

1ST

Eh, nothing in particular

3RD

It wasn't Irish?

1ST

Eh I don't eh

2ND

But it could've been

3RD

Think so?

2ND

Well...

1ST

I dont think it was

3RD

I must say I dont either

SOUND OF A JET PLANE COMING INTO EARSHOT

2ND

Fly so damn low these things!

1ST

Yeh

MAN

SCALMLY AND CLEARLY

]It's this fear of explosions. So absolutely fundamental. It's a fear of explosions. The big bang. In the beginning. Sometimes it's even just sitting in front of the gasfire, you're just sitting there, then you look at it and think: In the name of God, it's going to explode! Right in my face! It's going to explode! Christ! Quick! Dive! Run for cover! Quick! Duck! (LAUGHS) But it's only that really, nothing else, I dont think nothing else, just a blank... Well wait a minute, I do, I do think something else...

3RD

I dont believe this.

MAN

It's a picture. I get this picture. Of me. Being shot straight up into the fucking air, with all the debris coming crashing through the wall, bricks and mortar!

WOMAN CHUCKLES

MAN

Honest, I do

WOMAN

Crazy...!

MAN

I see myself with all my hair standing on end and I'm falling and I'm trying to scramble to catch onto something like a parachute. But all I can catch, wait till you hear: a big fucking gigantic lump of concrete. Imagine that! A big lump of concrete...

WOMAN

LAUGH] You, I might have known

MAN

Everything flying through the air! All sorts of debris. And I'm thrashing about there, the wee legs going like the clappers!

1ST

He's a bloody conman him so he is

MAN
What?

2ND
COMMANDS) Face the front!

1ST
Eh? Him and his wee fantasies.

2ND
CLOSE UP, MENACING
You like your wee fantasies son, eh!

WOMAN
NERVOUSLY
He's always been like this

1ST
We can see that!

2ND
Have you never considered hospital
treatment?

1ST
For the mentally disturbed! (TO 2nd) Yeh,
maybe she looks after him! (TO WOMAN)
Are you his doctor?

WOMAN
He's my nurse

1ST

ANGRY

I'm clenching my fists again. It's a surgeon
she'll be needing!

2ND

ANGRILY TO MAN

Face the front son!

1ST

Cheeky bastards, they really are, they just
make ye angry

2ND

I know what ye mean, exactly what ye mean.

1ST

LOUDLY] Face the wall!

WOMAN

We are facing the wall

2ND

I dont think she's a citizen

1ST

They're probably immigrants

2ND

Yeh, indeed, of Asian or East European
extraction. Maybe from Africa, or the West
Indies, the Central Americas, or East Turkey

1ST

East Turkey! Or what about the Middle East

2ND

Very likely, yes, they could be, they could very well be... Or indeed Irish. Or Pal-ess-tine. [EXAGGERATED POLITENESS] Excuse me dear... How long you've been at the present address?

WOMAN

Resident you mean?

2ND

Just begin at the beginning. How long you been living here with this guy? I'm not being nosy. I'm just interested

WOMAN

Right from the very start you've been interested in that. Right from when you first broke in

2ND

PUZZLED

It's not me, it's him, you're mixing me up with him

1ST

Who me?

2ND

It was you that entered first, no me. [SURPRISE] She's mixing us up.

1ST

Heh what is it you're saying about me?
What're you meaning? Are you meaning
something.

WOMAN CLEARS THROAT

1ST

Dont just clear yer throat, say something

WOMAN

Right from when you first broke in

1ST

I never broke in. You must be mixing me up
with somebody else. Unless you were
dreaming, you must've been dreaming

WOMAN

I wasnt dreaming

1ST

What do you mean you werent dreaming!
You were asleep, supposedly.

2ND

Perhaps she was awake and just pretending to sleep!

1ST

Exactly. Heh you, mister!

MAN

What?

1ST

The lady here, was she no supposed to be asleep? (AMUSED) Your cohabitee, while you were spouting your erotic fantasy, she was awake. Awake. She was wide awake and listening! She was evesdropping. She heard every last individual word you said! Eh? I wouldnt fancy that! That'd make me shudder. My cohabitee? Listening in to my erotic sexual fantasies! Oh no, I wouldnt fancy that! I wouldnt fancy that at all!

WOMAN

TIRED

Not only were they not erotic, they were not sexual.

1ST

SARCASTIC) I beg your pardon?

WOMAN

What makes you think they were even fantasy?

1ST

What?

3RD

BORED) It doesnt matter.

MAN

Can I go to the lavatory? It's getting to the desperate stages.

2ND

The desperate stages!

MAN

I've needed to go for a while.

3RD

Both of you go with him. And be careful

THEY WALK TO THE DOOR. DOOR OPENS, CLOSES.

SCENE 3

TIME FIVE MINUTES LATER

DOORS OPEN THE THREE MEN RETURN. WOMAN
AND 3RD HAVE BEEN TALKING, BEGIN IN MID
CONVERSATION

WOMAN

You know nothing about us, nothing at all

3RD

Just that you're a fanatic

WOMAN

You're the fanatic

3RD

Yes, you would like to think so.

MAN IS LED BACK INTO HIS PLACE

WOMAN

She likes you

MAN

What?

WOMAN

It's true; she confided in me when you were
at the lavatory

MAN

Christ!

WOMAN

What she said was, I quite respect your man.

MAN LAUGHS BRIEFLY. 3rd sighs, looks to 2nd and
1st

3RD

Now obviously - and even saying so sounds
absurd - the woman is speaking absolute
nonsense

WOMAN

What she said was, I quite respect your man

3RD

This is absolute nonsense

MAN

AMUSED

And what did you say to her?

WOMAN

I told her you were not my man

1ST

You're right he's not your man. He's not anybody's man. I don't even think he's a man at all! Know what I think? I think he's a fart

3RD

AMUSED] Don't worry

2ND

But that it is what he is a fart. He is a smelly object, one who requires to be taught a lesson.

1ST

A lesson of the short and sharp variety.

2ND

Indeed. You have been causing a deal of trouble son, a deal of trouble. Dissenting voices lead to dissenting actions. That is how we were taught.

3RD

Do you suppose they wish to bring down the government?

2ND

I do

3RD

For all we know they may desire to bring about the wholesale destruction of our entire way of life. The actual fabric of our bodily and spiritual existence. Do you suppose it possible?

2ND

I certainly do

1ST

It's incredible!

3RD

But is it possible?

1ST

It make me dizzy to think about

3RD

But is it possible?

1ST

It certainly is

3RD

So we're unanimous. Good.

2ND

They should confirm or deny the charge

3RD

Yes [TO 1st) You put it to them

1ST

Do you wish to bring down the government?
Is it your desire to bring about the complete
destruction of our whole way of life, the
actual fabric of our entire existence, bodily
and spiritually?

WOMAN

Of course

MAN

Me too

2ND

WHISPERS] Hostile methods...

1ST

Can the hostile methods you must fragrantly
resort to be defined as unconstitutional?

WOMAN

Obviously

1ST

TO MAN) What about you?

MAN

Of course, if she does I do

WOMAN CHUCKLES

3RD

Ask if their legs are sore.

1ST

LAUGHS] That's a good one

3RD

I think they are either from Russia or North
Pakistan, or Afganistan.

1ST

Or Cuba

2ND

They're not from Cuba. (AMUSED) They're
no wearing beards!

1ST

LAUGHS) How do you know! They might be
disguised! That could be false-faces they're
wearing!

2ND

I never thought of that! Perhaps I should
punch her on the chin to see if she's wearing
a beard beneath the mask! Eh?

1ST

Perhaps you should!

WOMAN LAUGHS QUIETLY. Now THE SOUND OF A FART, UNMISTAKABLE, BUT NOT EXAGGERATED.

2ND

You think you're hearing things at times, dont you!

1ST

You're not kidding!

2ND

It's as if they're always trying to make fools of us

3RD

They are, or pretending to. It's a facade. But they must maintain it. Or else everything crumbles. Everything. Welter upon welter of contradiction. One two three, everything goes. Have you noticed that?

2ND

Well eh...if I'm to be honest...eh

3RD

You haven't noticed it?

2ND

Not recently.

1ST

It's the sarcasm I find so detestable. I admit that openly. I get so scunnered by it, by that eh, that eh... I feel queasy

2ND

But him there! He is a cheeky bastard.

3RD

Yes, he probably is. She's more... I don't know. I'm not a hundred percent certain what she is.

2ND

Neither am I

3RD

The sarcasm...

2ND

Yes

3RD

I'm not a hundred percent certain. What is your opinion?

2ND

My opinion...? Eh... I don't really know. What I feel, in all honesty, sometimes - indeed quite a lot of the time really - is just, that it's better not to enter into things, the last details, that it's better not to enter into every last detail

3RD

AMUSED) What age are you?

2ND

Forty two

3RD

Forty two. (AMUSED) Don't lose it. It's something to stick to. At all costs. Not everybody has the facility. Whatever you do don't lose it.

2ND

I won't

3RD

You dont sound too confident

2ND

I am confident

3RD

You are confident?

2ND

Sufficiently so

3RD

PAUSE] Good. We're learning a fair amount. No matter what we may think, we are. True learning is akin to revelation. Then comes the processing. In my experience this is straightforward. There is nothing to worry about.

2ND

I'm not worrying

1ST

Neither am I

3RD

What time is it... Yes. I should say we are well
on the road now

MAN

SUDDENLY

What was that! [SHIVERS]

WOMAN

WORRIED] Okay?

MAN

Aye. Whhoh! Jees... (RELIEVED) My god!
That was a fucking beauty that - ho! Christ.
Dear oh dear!

WOMAN SIGHS

MAN)

I wonder what a heart attack feels like! eh?

1ST

What?

MAN

I wonder what a heart attack feels like?

1ST

What you asking me for? [TO 3rd] What's he asking me for?

3RD

Because you're nearest

MAN

Tell you something pal, see if I was you, I'd get really sick of these late hours! What're you permanent nightshift? Whhoh! Fuck sake, it must be murder!

1ST

What ye talking about?

MAN

It's in the atmosphere. I dont know what it is exactly. Maybe it's just the actual place itself, it makes you fucking shiver so it does. We've spoken about it before

WOMAN

SOOTHING] Ssh

MAN

Okay...

1ST

PUZZLED) What? Spoken about what? What have you spoken about? You didnt say anything to me. Maybe it was one of them! Eh? Who were you talking to?

MAN

GENERALLY) There again but, you feel as if the type of event that happens during the night couldnt happen at any other time. It's like being a kid, when you're feart of the dark. Then come morning it's totally gone from the proceedings. So much so you can hardly remember being feart in the first place, never mind what the fuck you were feart about!

WOMAN

WHISPERS] It's past dawn now.

2ND

Indeed

1ST

TO MAN) What are you saying about this place? Eh? It's just ordinary. What are they saying?

2ND

Nothing

1ST

Is there a special history attached to his place? Eh? A malevolent one?

2ND

QUIETLY] They're not going to answer you. They're using you. They're trying to get you disturbed.

1ST

In what way? How do you mean?

2ND

It's for the time being. To make you feel as if things have changed, as if they've altered, just to give you that sensation. It's obvious

1ST

A ploy?

2ND

Yeh.

3RD

An absolute void. Nought. There is no history. Nothing has happened in the past. Nothing. They admit of nothing at all. They say that there is no history, that it doesn't exist; they say that it simply doesn't exist.

1ST

Pardon?

2ND

They say that history does not exist

1ST

In what sense?

2ND

You tell me!

3RD

It's just one further contradiction.

2ND

Yes

1ST

But

3RD

There is no but.

1ST

Is it a paradox?

2nd LAUGHS QUIETLY

1ST

Why are you laughing?

3RD

Nor will they discuss it. Not to us. You must be cognisant of this at all times. It's at the root.

2ND

A premise.

3RD

It's why you can never understand

2ND

If you want to understand!

3RD

It's to be apprehending matters. When you
arent achieving that...

2ND

Indeed. I sometimes wonder what people
think about. If they think about anything.
And what it is, what the actual thing is, that
they think about.

1ST

SHIVERS] It's so cold in here.

2ND

Cold?

1ST

Not think so?

3RD

ABSENTLY] Where were we... [SITS ON CHAIR

2ND

WHISPERS) Do you want out of here?

1ST

WHISPERS) Yeh

2ND

WHISPERS) It happens a lot

1ST

QUIETLY] It's just really...it's terrible. I felt it
right from the start. Almost as if I should've
been shivering or something. How come I

wasnt shivering? I should've been shivering. Then seeing them, these two. I knew it wasnt going to be good, right from when I was first here.

2ND

I know what you're saying

1ST

It's a sort of mental interchange, it makes things not conducive. I dont like these two. They make me feel as if, as if I'm wanting to do things, that things are going to end up getting done. And I dont like it. I dont, the things that're happening, you feel like as if... (ANNOYANCE] Look at these dirty blankets, covering their bodies with them, they're just so scabby and horrible. I wouldnt use them to clean my shoes, they're just smelly old things, what a stink. (SNIFFS) D'you no get the whiff? It's like a bloody stench! It is. It's a stench.

2ND

What kind of stench?

1ST

Pardon?

2ND

What kind of stench?

1ST

I dont know, what do you mean, what kind of stench do you think it is?

2ND

Oh, don't ask me

1ST

And that old lumpy mattress. Probably full of fleas or lice, and them naked there underneath. For God sake, where's their clothes. It's just nudity, look, and we see it I mean how come they're naked like that? How come we have to see it? I dont want to see it.

2ND

Mm

1ST

You imagine all the germs, the termites, these wee things you get in the dust, them that come flying out of old ancient bedding and stuff if you shake it - you know that way when the sun comes in the window and you can see the atmosphere, full of them, clouds of them, like a plague or something, a pestilence, a total pollution of the bloody air, and breeding everywhere you look, even inside your body. (SHUDDERS)

MAN

WHISPERS

It's alright.

WOMAN

SIGHS] Yes

1ST

NERVOUSLY

But it does get to you

2ND

Mmm

1ST

Not think so?

MAN

WHISPER) They're not going to harm us.

WOMAN

STEADILY) Yes they are.

3RD

CALLS) Dont be misled. You mustnt be misled

2ND

It's sexual.

1ST

Oh I know, I know. But the way they carry on; like it's a big secret and they're not going to let us in on it. I can't understand them, I can't

3RD

But there isnt anything to understand. And there certainly isnt any secret. It's all clear and out in the open. (AMUSED) You still believe there's something missing, an integral element. You do. You think something's gone astray. A key perhaps. You find the key and open the box. And within that process the

secret has evaporated. (AMUSED) It's strange
how people think that

2ND

RUBS HIS HANDS] I'm starving. How about you?

1ST

Yeh...come to think of it

2ND

It's this blooming nightshift, you never seem
to get a proper meal. I'm absolutely sick of
cheese sandwiches

1ST

Me too

3RD

CALLS

Could you shift the mattress against the wall

1ST

Yes

SOUND: THE BLEEP OF A CELL PHONE

2ND

QUIETLY] Good timing

3RD

SPEAKS INTO CELL PHONE] Yes.
[SWITCHES OFF CELL PHONE] That's us
now. [OPENS DOOR] I'll see you in a minute
[DOOR CLOSES

2ND
[TO COUPLE, PLEASANTLY]
Come on

MAN
No!

2ND SIGHS

MAN
No!

2ND
CALMLY
It's the sensible decision

MAN AND WOMAN DROP THEIR BLANKETS

2ND
They've dropped their blankets

1ST
DISGUST
Jees oh!

2ND
SIGHS
Pick up your blankets.

1ST
It's disgusting

2ND

We might have to drag them

1ST

MOVES TOWARDS THEM BRISKLY

Come on

WOMAN

No

2ND

Be sensible

1ST

You! come on

WOMAN

Don't touch him

1ST

SIGHS

Then tell him to be sensible

2ND

Else we'll have to roll up our sleeves

DOOR OPENS; 3rd enters, walks to usual position

3RD

SIGHS, IMPATIENTLY

What happened to their blankets?

2ND

They dropped them to the floor

1ST

They just dropped them, we were bloody standing there when they did it

2ND

They think their nudity renders us the more vulnerable. They want to humiliate us

3RD

Ah

2ND

It's symbolic

3RD

Yes

1ST

SHUDDERS

I dont want to even touch them

2ND

I dont care about touching them, I shall enjoy it. You should too. Their nakedness is just a disguise, it covers them up, I'm talking about their true intentions. That's how I see it, it helps to resolve issues.

3RD

COMMANDS] Get their blankets

FLURRIED MOVEMENTS AS APPROPRIATE DURING
THIS ACTIVITY

3RD

Carry them over their shoulders

1ST

BRIGHTENS] Yeh!

2ND

She will not budge.

2nd IS ATTEMPTING TO HOLD WOMAN ROUND THE
WAIST AND LEAD HER TO THE DOOR.

1st IS ATTEMPTING TO HOLD MAN ROUND THE
SHOULDERS AND LEAD HIM TO THE DOOR

2ND

She is being difficult, exceedingly so

1ST

And he keeps throwing the blanket on the floor

3RD

Then you hold it

1ST

Yes but If I have to hold him I mean at the
same time, if there isnt the blanket

3rd SIGHS.

2ND

AMUSED TO 1ST)

Maybe this isnt the job for you!

1ST

ANNOYED

What do you mean?

3RD

IMPATIENTLY

Come on

1ST

But what does he mean?

3RD

Hurry!

WOMAN

I won't walk by myself, you'll have to carry
me.

MAN

You'll have to carry me as well

1ST

For God sake

2ND

The fellow's a desperado, wrap him in the blanket and we'll drag him out.

WOMAN

You dont scare us

2ND

I've heard that before

1ST

AMUSED

You're old school

2ND

Indeed.

3RD

This is known as encouragement. There are various modes of encouragement. The one selected is a function of the other. And what do I mean by other?

1ST

Any being such that the being is not ourself?

3RD

KINDLY] Yes

MAN UNINTELLIGBLE WHISPER

WOMAN

RESIGNED] No

A FLURRY OF MOVEMENT AND GROANS FROM MAN
AND WOMAN

1ST

Is this like the olden days?

2ND

Not quite

MAN

PAUSE. WHISPERS) These newspaper articles in front of my eyes...or like I'm taking part in a movie, or a novel. And there's somebody reading out the narrative bits. And they're saying about me how it was when I did the thing, the whatever it was, the hasty deed, the bold action, the existential fucking mover! Aw christ! (AMUSED) You hear this voice, talking about me as if I was the real character, and I'm creeping along...creeping along, I'm just creeping along like if I'm going to escape... Will I manage it. How will it end. Maybe I will escape, maybe I will...

PAUSE

LIGHTS DIM

END